

Helperbees Preschool 



Handbook for Parents and Carers



Helperbees Preschool

St Peter's Brafferton C of E Primary School

School Terrace

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Helperbees Preschool overview

Helperbees Preschool is a small preschool located in Brafferton / Helperby.

We are housed in a beautiful, modernised building which is sited within St Peter's Brafferton Primary school.

We have our own self-contained outdoor play area which the children always have free access to, and additionally we have access to a larger outdoor area and amazing field for muddy play!

In our cosy indoor area, we provide a full range of activities including a variety of toys, games and puzzles, home corner, book corner, creative and writing area, crafts, cooking, construction, and use of an Interactive Whiteboard.

We provide full day care to children aged between 2 and 4 years old, with a maximum of 20 children attending at any one time. We are therefore able to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for young children with a home-like feel.



Our Intent

Our intent is to have fun and learn while we play, we aim to:

- ✚ To provide children from the age of two to five with a happy, vibrant foundation which fosters a love of learning.
- ✚ To offer stimulating and inspiring provision where children feel safe and secure enough to take risks within their learning and play.
- ✚ To offer an enriched curriculum providing children with a wide range of new and exciting experiences.
- ✚ To encourage children to develop independence within a nurtured environment.
- ✚ To promote valuable curriculum opportunities both inside and outside.
- ✚ To have the highest expectations for all children and provide them with an unlimited opportunity for development.
- ✚ To develop the children's social and emotional wellbeing through nurturing environments, positive relationships with adults and peers, strong links with parents and carefully targeted interventions.
- ✚ We embrace Christian values to ensure that all children are ready for their next steps.

Our Implementation

Learning through Play

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. We use the EYFS framework to plan and provide a range of play activities to help children to make progress in each of the following areas of learning and development:

- ✚ Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- ✚ Communication
- ✚ Physical
- ✚ Understanding the World
- ✚ Mathematics
- ✚ Literacy
- ✚ Expressive art and design



A large part of the learning which takes place at Helperbees Preschool is child initiated - in other words the children themselves take the lead in identifying learning activities and shaping how their play develops. At other times an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity.

Planning in Helperbees is themed initially with a new story each week, which guides some of the provision. The staff within Helperbees create a board of learning that has happened within the setting which is then shared with parents via Class Dojo.

Our planning process is therefore very fluid - while we do identify learning goals for each child and plan activities in line with those goals, we are always flexible and will change activities as the children's needs and interests evolve.

Assessment

We assess how the children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. Observations are recorded using the online journal 'Evidence Me', some of these observations are shared with parents. Parents are able to download the Evidence Me App and view the observations (complete with photos) to see what their child has been learning and the new skills they are developing. Parents are then able to send comments and feedback by simply adding them to the reports, this helps staff support children even more effectively.

Key Person and Your Child

At Helperbees we operate a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom they are particularly responsible. When your child first starts at the preschool, they will help your child to settle and throughout your child's time at the setting, they will help your child to benefit from the setting's activities.

A list of the children allocated to each key person is clearly visible on the noticeboard within Helperbees.

Of course, as we are a small setting all members of staff know the children well, so parents may speak to any of us about any concerns or queries.

Working together for your children

Your child will benefit from a close partnership between preschool and parent. You can help do this by keeping us informed of:

- ✚ Changes at home e.g., new baby, moving home
- ✚ Family illness (including pets)
- ✚ Any worries or concerns your child has expressed about preschool
- ✚ Any achievement your child is particularly proud of (you can use a WOW voucher for this available in preschool)
- ✚ New interests or skills they have developed.
- ✚ Anything else you think we should know.

Rest and Sleep

We recognise that children need sleep and rest periods to help development. Children all develop at different rates, and we must meet their needs throughout the day at preschool.

As they grow, they will usually develop a routine in which reducing the length or the frequency of their daytime sleeps. Children at Helperbees will have the opportunity to rest or sleep if they need or want to throughout the day. The staff will create an environment for the children to rest or sleep i.e., a quiet area to cuddle up with a book or day beds for children to sleep on.

Parental wishes will be taken into consideration, although staff cannot force a child to sleep, wake or keep a child awake against his or her will.

A record of each child's daily sleep pattern will be recorded in a sleep logbook.



Helperbees Staff

All our staff bring a wide variety of skills and experiences to their roles with diverse backgrounds in business and education.

In our setting we maintain the ratio of adults to children that is set by the Department for Education.

Intimate Care

Please see our policy on Intimate care on the school website for full details.

We will be providing nappies if required.

Wrap around Care at BASE

We do offer wrap around care at BASE, and you can look on the school website for further details on this. Whilst at BASE your child will be with a mixture of children from all year groups. The way our children work and play together is a particular strength of our school as highlighted in our latest Ofsted report (April 2018) "the relationships between different age groups of pupils is particularly special. Older and younger pupils play and work together regularly".

We would like to reassure you that we will always provide enough staff and space to enable our younger children to have a separated play area if we feel this is appropriate, however in our experience the younger children love to play with the older children and vice versa!

Admissions, Fees, and funding

Please see admissions and fees policy available on the school website.

Settling In

Our aim is to ensure that each child feels comfortable within the setting as quickly as possible. You can contribute some input for this prior to them starting by completing the 'All About Me' form.

If your child is coming to preschool for the first time you might have concerns about how they will settle in. You know your child better than anyone and if you have any worries, you are very welcome to stay for a while until your child feels more confident. Please talk to us about this so that we can agree a plan for how best to settle your child in.

If you cannot collect your child

If you are unable to collect your child personally for any reason, please let us know who will be collecting them in your place. It is a legal requirement that children are not handed over to anyone other than a specific named person.

Snacks and Meals

At Helperbees we aim to make snacks and meals a social time at which children and adults eat together. We sit in small groups and engage in conversation. The emphasis is on helping children develop confidence and self-sufficiency by, for example, pouring their own drinks or helping to set the table for snack.

We provide a mid-morning snack of fruit and milk.

School Lunch Arrangements

If your child is staying for a school lunch, they will be served a hot meal each day in the Preschool building. The menu is available for you to look at on the school website and will also be emailed to you at the beginning of each term.

What you need for Helperbees

Each child will be allocated a peg for their coat. Please ensure all coats, hats, gloves and wellies and lunchboxes (where appropriate) are labelled with your child's name.

Please provide a bag for your child which should contain:

- A spare set of clothes appropriate for the time of year including socks and underwear.
- A sunhat in the summer, hat, and gloves when it is cold.

We ask that children are dressed in comfortable old clothes. Although we provide protective clothing for messy activities, it is important that children are not concerned about their clothes getting dirty.

Please provide waterproofs and wellington boots as appropriate.